

AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1-8, 11 and 19-28, and substitute in place thereof the following new claims.

29. An edible formulation, comprising edible, water soluble hydrolysates of food gums selected from the group consisting of guar gum, locust bean gum, konjac gum, tamarind seed gum, xanthan gum, pectin, carrageenan, and alginates, and combinations thereof, wherein the hydrolysates of food gums have a weight average molecular weight of 500 to 50,000 and an average DP of 3 to 75, and wherein the hydrolysates of food gums function as bulking agents in the edible formulation.

30. The edible formulation of Claim 29, wherein the hydrolysates of food gums are substantially non-digestible.

31. A sweetened edible formulation, comprising a sweetener having fewer calories than sucrose and a substantially non-digestible depolymerized food gum selected from the group consisting of guar gum, locust bean gum, konjac gum, tamarind seed gum, xanthan gum, pectin, carrageenan, and alginates, and combinations thereof, wherein the depolymerized food gum has an average DP of 3 to 75.

32. The sweetened edible formulation of Claim 31, further comprising aspartame, or its salts or metal complexes, acesulfame-K, alitame, trichlorogalactosucrose, cyclamates, saccharin, fructose, neohesperidine, or mixtures thereof.

33. The edible formulation of Claim 29, wherein the edible formulation is selected from the group consisting of baked goods; puddings, creams and custards; jams and jellies; confections; soft drinks and other sweetened beverages, in liquid or dry form; sauces and salad dressings; ice cream and frozen desserts; and pharmaceuticals.

34. The edible formulation of Claim 33, wherein the formulation further comprises aspartame, or its salts or metal complexes, acesulfame-K, alitame, trichlorogalactosucrose, cyclamates, saccharin, fructose, neohesperidine, or a mixture thereof.

35. A method for providing non-nutritive bulk to edible products, comprising the steps:

- a. depolymerizing a food gum selected from the group consisting of guar gum, locust bean gum, konjac gum, tamarind seed gum, xanthan gum, pectin, carrageenan, and alginates, and combinations thereof, to form a water soluble, substantially non-digestible, bulking agent, having an average DP of 3 to 75; and